

to look at unconscious values also, and to draw upon the deepest and earliest levels of the child's experience.

In his earliest days, the child's life and love hang upon his mother's gift of the breast (or its cold substitute, the bottle). He has no other means of knowing her, nor can her love be experienced in any other way. And in the analysis of adults, we find that this first significance of love as the gift of the breast (a magic talisman of love and safety, without which all needs go unsatisfied) persists unchanged in the unconscious levels of the mind. In a thousand ways, every patient shows that the deepest layer of meaning of "being loved" is still receiving a gift; and the primal meaning of being hated is being deprived, being robbed, since to the infant this means being destroyed.

In children beyond the first year of life, however, there is more at work than the direct desire for what is given. There is more than the wish to receive a gift as a sign of love. The child to whom a gift is offered (as I suggested earlier) feels *loveworthy*; and he who is denied feels that he has been denied *because* he is bad, because he is or has been hostile to the giver. This it is which brings poignancy to the child's gratitude for gifts, and bitterness to his sense of loss when he is left out of the giving. The gift is not only a sign that the giver loves and does not hate; it is also a sign that the recipient is believed to be loving, not hating and hateful. It thus brings him reassurance against his own sense of guilt and the pressure of his super-ego. The giver becomes a good helper (parent or ally) against "the bad inside him." Whereas when he withholds, he abandons the child not only to his need, but to the rages and jealousies which that need and the sight of others' satisfactions arouse in him.

The obverse of all this is seen from the side

of the child
who makes gifts to those whom he loves. " Dan
cried at
lunch-time because he had not been given a
brown plate,
and when Harold, who had one, had finished
his pudding,
he took his spoon off and passed it to Dan—'
You can have
my brown plate/ He stroked Dan's hands
several times
affectionately." " Paul ran in when he
arrived, saying,
' I'm going to buy a polar bear now for you boys
—a *real* one,
not a toy one.' Paul has been very friendly to
everyone for
some time now." " Frank offered to share his
garden with
Priscilla, and they dug together for some time/'